

Carodnia is the largest mammal known from the Eocene of South America. It was heavily built and had large canines and cheek teeth with a crested pattern like the uintatheres to which it can be related.^[3] In life, it would have been a tapir-sized animal. It bore strong resemblances to dinoceratans, although without tusks or ossicones.

Bibliography

Carodnia is characterized by bilophodont^[explain 1] first and second molars and more complex lophate^[explain 1] third molars, which suggests possible links to pyrotheres, uinatheres, and even arctocyonids. The bones of the foot are short and robust and the digits terminate in broad, flat, and unfissured hoof-like unguals, unlike any other known meridiungulate.^[6]

Synonyms

C. feruglioi and *C. cabrerai*, from the Riochican in the SALMA classification of Patagonia,^[5] are known from only a few dental remains. *C. vieirai* (from the Itaboraian SALMA of Itaborai)^[5] is known from much more complete dental, cranial, and postcranial remains including an almost complete mandible, many vertebrae, and several partial leg bones.^[7]

Ctalecarodnia Simpson 1935

When Simpson 1935 first described *Carodnia* and *Ctalecarodnia*, the former was known only from a left lower molar which was lacking in the latter, making a comparison very difficult. Paula Couto 1952, based on considerably more complete remains, concluded that the molars and premolars of both are indistinguishable and therefore reduced *Ctalecarodnia* to a synonym. Paula Couto also noted that the dentition of *C. cabrerai* and *C. feruglioi* are similar except in size, and that *C. feruglioi* can be a juvenile *C. cabrerai*, but nevertheless left them as two distinct species.^[8]

Distribution

Fossils of *Carodnia* have been found in:^[9]

- Peñas Coloradas Formation, Argentina
- Itaboraí Formation, Brazil
- Mogollón Formation, Peru^[2]

Notes

1. A loph is a crest on the crown of a tooth. A bilophodont tooth has two parallel lophs running transversally across the tooth.

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